

## ANCIENT HISTORY BOOKLET FOR SSC/PCS

### INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

The Indus Valley civilization was an ancient civilization thriving along the Indus river and the Ghaggar-Hakra river in what is now Pakistan and north-western India. Among other names for this civilization is the Harappan civilization in reference to the first excavated city of Harappa.

- An alternative term for the culture is Saraswati- Sindhu civilization
- R.B. Dayaram Sahni first discovered Harappa (on Ravi) in 1921. R.D. Banerjee discovered Mohenjodaro or 'Mound of the Dead' (on Indus) in 1922.

Sir John Marshal played a crucial role in both these.

- The sequence begins with the transition of
  - Nomadic herdsmen to settled agriculturists in eastern Baluchistan (First Phase),
  - continues with the growth of large villages and the rise of towns in the Indus Valley (Second Phase),
  - Leads to the emergence of the great cities (Third Phase), and
  - Finally, ends with their decline (Fourth Phase).

• Mediterranean, Proto-Australoid, Mongoloids and Alpines formed the bulk of the population

• More than 100 sites belonging to this civilization have been excavated.

• According to radio-carbon dating, it spread from the year 2500-1750 B.C.

• Copper, bronze, silver and gold were known but not iron.

#### Geographical Extent

• Covered parts of Punjab, Sindh, Baluchistan, Gujarat, Rajasthan and some parts of Western U.P & J&K. It extended from Manda in Jammu in the north to Daimabad in the south and from Alamgirpur in western U.P. to Sutkagendor in Baluchistan in the west.

• Major sites in Pakistan are Harappa (on river Ravi in west Punjab), Mohenjodaro (on Indus), Chanhu-Daro (Sindh), etc. In India the major sites are Lothal, Rangpur and Surkotda (Gujarat), Kalibangan (Rajasthan), Banawali (Hissar, Haryana) and Alamgirpur (western U.P.)

#### TOWN PLANNING

• The towns were divided into two parts: Upper part or Citadel and the Lower part.

The Citadel was an oblong artificial platform some 30-50 feet high and about some 200-400 yards in area. It was enclosed by a thick (13 m in Harappa) crenellated mud brick wall. The Citadel comprised of public buildings whereas the lower part comprised of public dwellings.

• In Mohenjodaro, a big public bath (Great Bath) measuring 12 m by 7 m and 2.4 m deep has been found. The Great Bath was probably used for ritual bathing.

#### Agriculture

• The Indus people sowed seeds in the flood plains in November, when the flood water receded, and reaped their harvests of wheat and barley in April, before the advent of the next flood.

• The people grew wheat, barley, rai, peas, sesamum, mustard, rice (in Lothal), cotton, dates, melon, etc. The Indus people were the first to produce cotton in the world.

•Horses weren't in regular use but elephant was for transportation.

#### Trade and Commerce

• Well-knit external and internal trade. There was no metallic money in circulation and trade was carried through Barter System.

• Weights and measures of accuracy existed in Harappan culture (found at Lothal). The weights were made of limestone, steatite, etc. and were generally cubical in shape.

• 16 was the unit of measurement (16, 64, 160, 320).

• Flint tool-work, shell-work, bangle-making (famous in Kalibangan), etc. were practiced.

• Bead making factories existed in Chanu daro and Lothal.

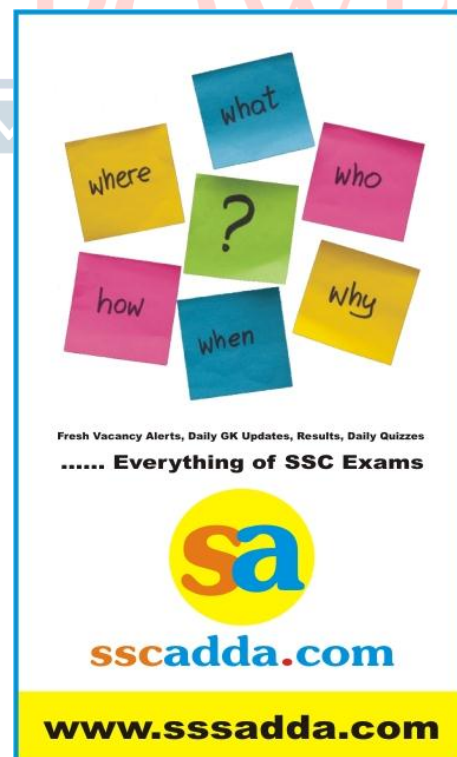
• A dockyard has been discovered at Lothal.

• The inland transport was carried out by bullock carts.

#### Art and Craft

• The Harappan culture belongs to the Bronze Age and bronze was made by mixing tin and copper. Tools were mostly made of copper and bronze.

• The Indus valley people were very fond of ornaments (of gold, silver, ivory, copper, bronze and precious stones) and dressing up. Ornaments were worn by both men and women, rich or poor. The Harappans were expert bead makers.



#### Harappan Seals

• Potter's wheel was in use. The Indus Valley Pottery was red or black pottery and the people indulged in dice games, their favorite pass time being gambling.

•The most impressive of the figurines is the bronze image of a dancing girl (identified as a devdassi) found at Mohenjodaro.

• Maximum number of seals discovered is made of steatite with the unicorn symbol being discovered on the maximum number of seals.



## Religious Life

- The main object of worship was the Mother Goddess or Shakti.
- Many trees (peepal), animals (bull), birds (dove, pigeon) and stones were worshipped. Unicorns were also worshipped. However no temple has been found at that time.
- At Kalibangan and Lothal fire altars have been found.

## Script

- The script is not alphabetical but pictographic. (about 600 undeciphered pictographs).
- The script has not been deciphered so far, but overlaps of letters show that it was written from right to left in the first line and left to right in the second line. This style is called 'Boustrophedon'.

## End/Decay

- The Harappan culture lasted for around 1000 years.
- The invasion of the Aryans, recurrent floods (7 floods), social breakup of Harappans, Earthquakes, successive alteration in the course of the river Indus and the subsequent drying up of the areas in and around the major cities, etc. are listed as possible causes for the decline of the Indus Valley Civilization.

## Important Sites of the Indus Valley Civilization

### 1. Harappa

It is situated in Montgomery district of Punjab (Pakistan).

- Evidence of coffin burial and cemetery 'H' culture.
- The dead were buried in the southern portion of the fortified area, called cemetery R-37.
- Almost 36% of the total seals excavated in the Indus Civilization are excavated from Harappa alone.
- Other discoveries include Bronze image of an 'ekka' (vehicle) and a seal with the representation of the sign of 'swastika' on it.

### 2. Mohenjo-daro

Also known as the 'Mound of the dead', it lies in Larkana district of Sindh (Pakistan).

Some of the specific findings during the excavations of Mohenjodaro include:

- a) A college, a multi-pillared assembly hall.
  - b) The Great Bath
  - c) A large granary (the largest building of Mohenjodaro) which suggests extreme centralization as the ruling authorities must have first brought the agricultural produce here and then redistributed it.
- Evidence of direct trade contact with Mesopotamia (Modern Day Iraq).
  - A seal representing Mother Goddess with a plant growing from her womb, and a woman to be sacrificed by a man with a knife in his hand.

### 3. Alamgirpur

- The famous Harappan site is considered the eastern boundary of the Indus culture. Findings suggest that Alamgirpur developed during the late-Harappan culture.
- The site is remarkable for providing the impression of cloth on a trough.

### 4. Kalibangan

Kalibangan was an important Harappan city. The word Kalibangan means 'black bangles'. A ploughed field was the most important discovery of the early excavations. Later excavations at Kalibangan made the following specific discoveries:

- A wooden furrow
- Seven fire altars in a row on a platform suggesting the practice of the cult of sacrifice.
- A tiled floor which bears intersecting designs of circles.

### 5. Kot-Diji

Kot-Diji is known more as a pre Harappan site. Houses were made of stone.

### 6. Lothal

Lothal was an important trade centre of the Harappan culture. The town planning in Lothal was different from that of Harappa and Mohenjodaro. The city was divided into six sections.

- Remains of rice husk (the only other Harappan city where the rice husk has been found is Rangpur near Ahmedabad).
- An artificial dock yard.
- Evidence of games similar to modern day chess and an instrument for measuring 180, 90, 45 degree angles (the instrument points to modern day compass).

### 7. Amri

- Amri also gives evidence of pre Harappan settlement.

### 8. Chanhudaro

- Excavations at Chanhudaro have revealed three different cultural layers from lowest to the top being Indus culture, and the pre-Harappan Jhukar culture and the Jhangar culture.
- The site is especially important for providing evidences about different Harappan factories. These factories produced seals, toys and bone implements.
- It was the only Harappan city without a citadel.

### 9. Ropar

- Ropar is a Harappan site from where remains of pre-Harappan and Harappan cultures have been found.
- Buildings at Ropar were made mainly of stone and soil.
- Important findings at the site include pottery, ornaments, copper axes, chert blades, terracotta blades, one inscribed steatite seal with typical Indus pictographs.

### 10. Banawali

- Situated in Hissar district of Haryana, Banawali has provided two phases of culture during its excavations: the pre-Harappan (Phase I) and the Harappan (Phase II).

### 11. Surkotda

- Situated in Kutch (Bhuj) district of Gujarat and excavated by J.P. Joshi in 1972, Surkotda was an important fortified Harappan settlement.
- This site is important because it provides the first actual remains of horse bones.

### 12. Sutkagendor

- Sutkagendor situated in Sindh (Pakistan) was an important coastal town of the Indus civilization.
- Excavations of Sutkagendor have revealed a twofold division of the township: the Citadel and the Lower City, it is said that Sutkagendor was originally a port which later cut off from the sea due to coastal uplift.

## Rig Vedic Age (1500-1000 B.C.)

The source of information of this period includes the archeological evidences as well as the literary source i.e. Rig Veda. It is an important source of information for this period.

### Concepts about Rig Vedic Age

- Rig Vedic society was much simple as compared to that of the Indus Valley. The main occupation of Rig Vedic people was cattle rearing. It was only in the later Vedic Age that they adhered to the sedentary agriculture
- There is no sign of urbanization during this period.
- It was altogether a rural-tribal economy.
- Horse and cow were the two most important animals during this period.
- There has been no evidence of horse in the Indus Valley Civilization, however the horse was the important animal of this age.
- Indira, Agni and Som were the important gods which were worshipped. There is no evidence of worship of mother goddess or proto-Shiva as in the case of Indus Valley Civilization.
- Red ware was the most popular pottery of this period while, Painted Grey Ware was the most distinctive.

- In the Rig Veda, the most mentioned river is Sindhu and the most pious river is Saraswati. Ganga and Yamuna were the lesser known rivers during this period.
- Rig Vedic Aryans had the knowledge about the sea.
- The iron and copper was not used by the Rig Vedic Aryans. It was only during the later Vedic period that the usage of iron started.
- Tribal institutions like Sabha, Samiti, Vidhata and Gana were important assemblies.
- The first evidence of Varna division comes from the Purushsukta sloka in the tenth Mandal of the Rig Ved.
- The Varna system was present, but it was mobile. The members from the same household can adopt any occupation. In a hymn mentioned in the Rig Ved the narrator says: 'I am a bard; my father is a physician, my mother is a grinder of corn.'
- The cow was considered as a precious asset
- Rig Veda mentions 40 rivers. The Nadisukta hymn of the Rig Veda mentions 21 rivers which include the Ganges in the east and the Kubha (Kabul) in the west.

### Economy

- The Aryans were in the nomadic stage of life, the cattle rearing were the primary occupation and a great importance was attached to herds of cattle.
- The items like leather and wool were the items of trade, but the impact of trade on the economy was negligible.
- Cows and gold ornaments of fixed value were the media of exchange. No other coins were known.
- Various professions like carpenters, smiths, tanners, weavers, potters and grinders of corn were mentioned in Rig Ved.
- Medical knowledge was developed during this period. The art of healing wounds and curing disease and surgery were in existence.

### Society



- The Rigvedic society comprised four Varnas, namely Brahmana, Kshatriya, Vaisya and Shudra.
- The teacher and priests were called Brahamanas; rulers and administrators Rajanya; farmers, merchants and bankers Vaishyas; and artisan and labourers as Shudras.
- The age of marriage was 16-17 years and child marriage was not in vogue.
- A widow could marry the younger brother of her deceased husband (Niyoga).
- The women were allowed to study and they participated in wars.
- There is no evidence of practices like sati or purdah
- Right to property was known in moveable things like cattle, horse, gold and ornaments and so also in immoveable property like land and house.
- Milk and its products – curd, butter and ghee-formed an important part of the diet. The meat of fish, birds and animals was eaten.
- The cow was deemed Aghanya i.e. not to be killed.

### Theory of Kingship and Polity

- The role of king was to lead his tribe in the war and the protection of his tribe
- Taxation system was not developed during this period. There was no land tax during this period as people were semi-nomadic
- Bali was the earliest known tax but it too was voluntary
- The government was monarchical. Monarchy was normal but non-monarchical polities were present.
- The Dasrajan War (The Battle of Ten Kings): According to Rig Veda, the famous Dasrajan war was mutual struggle of Aryans. The Dasrajan war given names of ten kings who participated in a war against Suda who was Bharata king of Tritsus family. The battle was fought on the bank of Parushani (Ravi) and Sudas emerged victorious.

### Religion

- Rig Vedic period witnessed the worship of male gods unlike Mother Goddess in the case of Indus Valley.
- The animals and trees were not worshipped during this period.
- The Rig Vedic people don't believe in life after death.
- The mode of worship of gods was through sacrifice.
- During this period the gods worshipped were generally the personified powers of nature.
- Fire was sacred as it was regarded as the intermediary between man and God. The fire cult is the only similarity in the religious belief of Indus Valley people and the people of this age.
- There were nearly 33 gods.
- These gods were divided into three categories i.e. terrestrial, aerial and celestial.
- Indra, Agni, Som and Varuna were the most popular deities of Rigvedic Aryans.
- Indra or Purandara (destroyer of fort) – the most important god (250 Rigvedic hymns are devoted to him); played the role of warlord and considered to be rain god.
- Agni – The second most important god (200 Rigvedic hymns are devoted to him); fire god considered to be the intermediary between the gods and the people.
- Varuna – Personified water; supposed to uphold 'Rita' or the natural order ('Ritasyagopa').
- Surya (Sun) was worshiped in 5 forms : Surya, Savitri, Mitra, Pushan & Vishnu.
- Savitri (the god of light)- The famous Gayatri Mantra is addressed to her.
- Soma – Originally a plant producing a potent drink during courses of Agnishtoma sacrifice could be hemp/bhang, called king of plant; identified with the moon later. The 9th mandala of Rig Veda, which contains 114 hymns, is attributed to the Soma. That's why it is called 'the Soma Mandala'.
- The nature of Rig Vedic religion was Henotheism i.e. a belief in many gods but each god in turns standing out as the highest.


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### Vedic Literature

- Vedic Literature can be categorized into four sections:
  - I. Vedas
  - II. The Brahmans
  - III. The Aranyakas
  - IV. The Upanishads.
- Vedas are called "Apaurashey" and "Nitya" i.e. not created by man but God-gifted and existing in all eternity.
- There are four Vedas-Rig Veda, Sama Veda, Yajur Veda & Atharva Veda.
- Out of the four Vedas, the Rig Veda is one of the oldest texts in the world.
- The **Rig veda (written in verse)** contains 1028 hymns, is divided into 10 mandalas
- The hymns of Rig Veda were recited by Hotri.





- The **Sama Veda** (written in verse) contains 1549 hymns. All hymns (excluding 75) were taken from the Rig Veda. This Ved is important for music; however it is relatively insignificant as a source of history.
- The hymns of the Sama Veda were recited by Udgatri.
- The **Yajur Veda** is a ritual veda. Its hymns were recited by Adhvaryus.
- Yajur Ved is divided into two parts-Krishna Yajur Veda & Shukla Yajur Veda. It is written in both verse & prose.
- The Atharva Veda the fourth and the last one, it also contains charms and spells to ward off evils and diseases.
- **Atharva Veda** is the most important source to construct the history of the Aryans.
- Atharva Veda also contain the evidence of some non- Aryan practices
- Various sacrifices and rituals have been discussed in great detail in Brahmanas. Every Veda has several Brahmins attached to it.
- The Aranyaka are the concluding portions of the Brahmanas.
- The Upanishadas are the texts with high philosophical connotations.
- Upanishads are also called Vedanta i.e. end of Vedas
- Brihadaranyaka is the oldest Upanishada. The concept of life after death, for the first time appears here.
- The latest Upanishada was written during the reign of Akbar

### Later Vedic Literature

- Literature of the later Vedic period can be categorized into six heads:
  1. Vedangas
  2. Smritis
  3. Mahakavyas
  4. Puranas
  5. Upvedas
  6. Dharshanas
- The three texts associated with different kind of rituals are:
  - a. Shrauta Sutras/Shulva Sutras – deal with the sacrifices
  - b. Grihya Sutras – deal with family ceremonies
  - c. Dharma Sutras – deal with Varnas, Ashramas & other.
- There are mainly two Epics:
  - I. The Ramayana written by Valmiki, it is known as 'Adi Kavya'. At present, it consists of 24,000 shlokas i.e. verses.
  - II. The Mahabharata composed by Ved Vyasa is the oldest epics of the world. At present, it consists of 1,00,000 shlokas i.e. verses. Bhagavad Gita is extracted from Bishma Parvan of Mahabharata and Shanti Parvan is the largest parvan of the Mahabharata.
- The Upavedas i.e the auxiliary Vedas were traditionally associated with the Vedas.

### Religious movements (6th Century B.C)

The sixth century B.C. was the age of religious unrest in the history of India. This was the time when Vedic religion and philosophy witnessed churnings and reactions from within and without. The churning from within the Vedic religion was in the form of Upnishads which gave a serious jolt to the cult of sacrifices; and gave emphasis on the knowledge as a vehicle to achieve God. On the other hand Jainism, Buddhism and various other heterodox sects emerged during this period as a reaction to the Vedic religion and philosophy. While the Upnishads philosophy was aimed to rectify the Vedic religion and thus strengthen it, the aim of Jainism, Buddhism and various other heterodox sects was to dismantle it.

### Buddhism

#### Buddha's Life

- Gautama, the Buddha also known as Siddhartha, Sakyamuni and Tathagata.
- Born in 563 BC (widely accepted), at Lumbini, near Kapilvastu, capital of the Sakya republic.
- Left home at the age of 29 and attained Nirvana at the age of 35 at Bodh Gaya.

- Delivered his first sermon at Sarnath.
- He attained Mahaparinirvana at Kusinara in 483 BC.

### Buddhist Councils

- **The first Council** was held in 483 BC at Sattapanni cave near Rajagriha to compile the Sutta Pitaka and Vinaya Pitaka.
- **The second council** was held at Vaisali in 383 BC.
- **The third council** was held at Pataliputra during the reign of Ashoka. 236 years after the death of Buddha. It was held under the Presidentship of Moggalliputta Tissa to revise the scriptures.
- **The fourth council** was held during the reign of Kanishka in Kashmir under the Presidentship of Vasumitra and Asvaghosha and resulted in the division of Buddhists into Mahayanists and Hinayanists.

### Buddhist Scriptures

- The Vinaya Pitaka: (a) mainly deals with rules and regulations, which the Buddha promulgated, (b) it describes in detail the gradual development of the Sangha. c) An account of the life and teaching of the Buddha is also given.
- The Sutra Pitaka: (a) Consists chiefly of discourses delivered by Buddha himself on different occasions, (b) Few discourses delivered by Sariputta, Ananda, Moggallana and others are also included in it. c) It lays down the principles of Buddhism.
- The Abhidhamma Pitaka: Contains the profound philosophy of the Buddha's teachings, (b) It investigates mind and matter, to help the understanding of things as they truly are.
- The Khandhakas: contain regulations on the course or life in the monastic order and have two sections - the Mahavagga and the Cullavagga. The third part - the Parivara is an insignificant composition by a Ceylonese monk.
- Among the non-canonical literature Milindapanho, Dipavamsa and Mahavamsa are important. The later two are the great chronicles of Ceylon.

### Know The Important Facts

- Asvaghosha- Contemporary of Kanishka. He was poet, dramatist, musician, scholar and debator.
- Nagarjuna—He was a friend and contemporary of Satavahana king Yajnasri Gautamiputra of Andhra. He propounded the Madhyamika School of Buddhist philosophy popularly known as Sunyavada.
- Asanga and Vasubandhu—Two brothers who flourished in the Punjab region in fourth century AD. Asanga was the most important teacher of the Yogachara or Vijnanavada School founded by his guru, Maitreyanatha. Vasubandhu's greatest work, Abhidharmakosa is still considered an important encyclopaedia of Buddhism.
- Buddhaghosha — Who lived in the fifth century AD was a great Pali scholar. The commentaries and the Visuddhimaga written by him are a great achievement in the Post- Tripitaka literature.
- Dinnaga—The last mighty intellectual of the fifth century, is well known as the founder of the Buddhist logic.
- Dharmakirti—lived in the seventh century AD was another great Buddhist logician. He was a subtle philosophical thinker and dialectician.

### Buddhist Philosophy

- Idealism: Two source of valid knowledge: (a) Perception and (b) Inference.
- Doctrine of dependent origination (Pratisamutpada): Central theory of Buddhist Philosophy. It tells us that in the empirical world dominated by the intellect, everything is relative, conditional dependent, subject to birth and death and therefore impermanent.
- Theory of momentariness {Kshanabhanga or Impermanence): It tells that everything ,in this world is merely a conglomeration of perishable qualities. According to it, Things that can produce effect exist and whatever cannot produce effect has no

existence.

### Five Great Events of Buddha's Life and their Symbols

- Birth: Lotus and Bull
- Great Renunciation: Horse
- Nirvana: Bodhi tree
- First Sermon: Dharmachakra or wheel
- Parinirvana or Death: Stupa

### Four Noble Truths

- The world is full of sorrows.
- Desire is root cause of sorrow.
- If Desire is conquered, all sorrows can be removed. Desire can be removed by
- following the eight-fold path.

### Eight Fold Path

- Right understanding • Right speech
- Right livelihood • Right mindfulness
- Right thought • Right action
- Right effort • Right concentration


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### Three Ratnas

- Buddha
- Dhamma
- Sangha

### Sacred Shrines

• Lumbini, Bodh-Gaya, Sarnath and Kusinagar, where the four principal events of the Buddha's life, namely, Birth, Enlightenment, First sermon and Mahaparinirvana took place. To these are added four places Sravasti, Rajgriha, Vaishali and Sankasya—these eight places have all along been considered as the eight holy places (ashtamahasthanas).

• Other centres of Buddhism in Ancient India—Amravati and Nagarjunikonda in Andhra Pradesh; Nalanda in Bihar; Junagadh and Valabhi in Gujarat; Sanchi and Bharhut in MP; Ajanta-Ellora in Maharashtra, Dhaulagiri in Orissa; Kannauj, Kausambi and Mathura in

U.P.; and Jagadala and Somapuri in West Bengal.

• Buddhist architecture developed essentially in three forms, viz. (a) Stupa (relics of the Buddha or some prominent Buddhist monk are preserved) (b) Chaitya (prayer hall) (c) Vihara (residence)

### Types of Buddhism

• **Hinayana** (a) Its followers believed in the original teachings of Buddha, (b) They sought individual salvation through self-discipline and meditation. (c) They did not believe in idol-worship, (d) Hinayana, like Jainism, is a religion without God, Karma taking the place of God. (e) Nirvana is regarded as the extinction of all. (f) The oldest school of Hinayana Buddhism is the Sthaviravada (Theravada in Pali) or the 'Doctrine of the Elders', (f) Its Sanskrit counterpart, which is more philosophical is known as Sarvastivada or the doctrine which maintains the existence of all things, physical as well as mental, (g) Gradually, from Sarvastivada or Vaibhasika branched off another school called Sautantrika, which was more critical in outlook.

• **Mahayana**: (a) Its followers believed in the heavenliness of Buddha and sought the salvation of all through the grace and help of Buddha and Bodhisattvas. (b) Believes in idolworship, (c) Believes that Nirvana is not a negative cessation of misery but a positive state of bliss, (d) Mahayana had two chief philosophical

schools: the Madhyamika and the Yogachara. (e) The former took a line midway between the uncompromising realism of Hinayanism and the idealism of Yogachara. (f) The Yogachara school founded by Maitreyanatha completely rejected the realism of Hinayana and maintained absolute idealism.

• **Vajrayana**: (a) Its followers believed that salvation could be best attained by acquiring the magical power, which they called Vajra. (b) The chief divinities of this new sect were the Taras. © It became popular in Eastern India, particularly Bengal and Bihar.

### Know The Important Facts

- The Buddha extended the teaching of two elder contemporaries, Alara Kalama, and Udlaka.
- According to Buddhism there is no-self, no God, no soul and no spirit.
- There is very little theological or philosophical speculation involved
- Buddhism is scientific in approach, a search for cause and effect relationships and knowledge of reality, as each individual human being experiences it.
- It is psychological in approach, that is, it begins with human being.
- "If women were not admitted into the monasteries, Buddhism would have continued for a thousand years, but because this admission has been granted, it would last only five hundred years" – Buddha

### Contribution of Buddhism

- The doctrine of Ahimsa—so strongly stressed, devoutly preached and sincerely practiced by the Buddhists & was incorporated in Hinduism of later days.
- The practice of worshipping personal Gods, making their images and erecting temples in their honour became a part of the later day Hinduism.
- Buddhism proved to be one of the greatest civilising forces, which India gave to the neighbouring countries.
- Buddhism broke the isolation of India and helped in establishment of intimate contacts between India and foreign countries.

### Jainism

#### Life of Mahavira

- Born in 540 BC at Kundagrama near Vaisali.
- Siddhartha was his father: Trisala his mother, Yasoda his wife and Jameli was the daughter.
- Attained Kaivalya at Jrimbhikagrama in eastern India at the age of 42.
- Died at the age of 72 in 468 BC at Pavapuri near Rajagriha.
- He was called Jina or Jitendriya, Nirgrantha and Mahavira.

### Way to Nirvana (Three Ratnas)

- Right faith (Samyak vishwas)
- Right knowledge (Samyak jnan)
- Right conduct (Samyak karma)

### The Principles of Jainism as Preached by Mahavira

- Rejected the authority of the Vedas and the Vedic rituals.
- Did not believe in the existence of God.
- Believed in karma and the transmigration of soul.
- Laid great emphasis on equality.

### Five Main Teachings

- (i) Non-injury (ahimsa)
  - (ii) Non-lying (saryai)
  - (iii) Non-stealing (asateya)
  - (iv) Non-possession (aparigraha)
  - (v) Observe continence (Brahmcharya).
- (The first four principles are of Parsavanath and the fifth Bramacharya was included by Mahavira).

### Sacred Literature

The sacred literature of the Svetambaras is written in a form of Prakrit called Ardhamagadhi, and may be classified as follows:

- (a) The twelve Angas (b) The twelve Upangas (c) The ten Parikarnas (d) The six Chhedasutras (e) The four Mulasutras.

### Jaina Philosophy

- Syadvada: All our judgements are necessarily relative, conditional and limited. According to Syadvada (the theory of may be) seven modes of predication (saptabhangi) are possible. Absolute affirmation and absolute negation both are wrong. All judgements are conditional.
- Anekantavada: The Jaina metaphysics is a realistic and relativistic pluralism. It is called Anekantavada or the doctrine of the 'manyness of reality'. Matter (Pudgala) and Spirit (Jiva) are regarded as separate and independent realities.

### Spread of Jainism

Jainism received patronage from the kings of the time, including Chandragupta Maurya. In south, royal dynasties such as the Gangas, Kadambas, Chalukyas and Rashtrakutas patronized Jainism. In Gujarat, patronage came from wealthy merchants. The concrete expression of Jainism's religious zeal is seen all over the country in works of art and architecture. The 57-foot high statue of Gomateshvara at Sravanabelagola in Mysore, erected in 983 or 984 AD is a marvel of its kind. The temples at Mount Abu and those at Palithana in Gujarat and Moodabidri and Karkala in the south make a rich contribution to the Indian heritage.

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### Jaina Councils

By the end of fourth century BC, there was a serious famine in the Ganges valley leading to a great exodus of many Jaina monks to the Deccan and South India (Sravana Belgola) along with Bhadrabahu and Chandragupta Maurya. They returned to the Gangetic valley after 12 years. The leader of the group, which stayed back at Magadha was Sthulabahu. The changes that took place in the code of conduct of the followers of Sthulabahu led to the division of the Jainas into Digambaras (sky-clad or naked) and Svetambaras (white-clad).

- **First Council** was held at Pataliputra by Sthulabahu in the beginning of the third century BC and resulted in the compilation of 12 Angas to replace the lost 14 Purvas.
- **Second Council** was held at Valabhi in the 5th century AD under the leadership of Devaradhi Kshamasramana and resulted in final compilation of 12 Angas and 12 Upangas.

### Invasion of Alexander

Alexander crossed the Indus in 326 BC. After defeating the fierce tribes of the northwest, he encountered two powerful kings, Ambhi and Porus. Ambhi, the king of Taxila, sent a mission to Alexander. Offer to help him, if his own kingdom was spared. Porus, however, decided to oppose the Macedonian and the battle of Hydaspes (Ravi) was fought on the banks of the river Jhelum.

Greek sources mention that Porus was defeated but was restored to his dominion as a vassal of Alexander. Alexander wanted to continue his advance but his soldiers mutinied and refused to go beyond river Hyphasis (Beas) and he had to retreat.

Alexander died in Babylonia in 323 BC. After his death, most of the Macedonians returned home by 316 BC. Though Alexander's stay in India was brief; it was an important influence. By curbing the fierce tribes who inhabited the hills and passes of North-west India, he paved the way for the rise of a united empire under the Mauryas. Alexander's campaign opened up and reinforced a number of trade routes between North-Western India, via Afghanistan and Iran to Asia Minor and to the ports along the eastern Mediterranean.

### The Mauryan Empire (325 BC -183 BC)

#### Chandragupta Maurya

- In 305 BC Chandragupta defeated Seleucus Nikator, who surrendered a vast territory.
- Megasthenes was a Greek ambassador sent to the court of Chandragupta Maurya by Seleucus.
- Chandragupta became a Jain and went to Sravanbelgola with Bhadrabahu, where he died by slow starvation (Sale/than).
- Under Chandragupta Maurya, for the first time, the whole of northern India was united.
- Trade flourished, agriculture was regulated, weights and measures were standardized and money came into use.
- Taxation, sanitation and famine relief became the concerns of the State.

#### Bindusara

- Bindusara extended the kingdom further and conquered the south as far as Mysore.
- Bindusara asked Antiochus I of Syria to send some sweet wine, dried figs, and a Sophist. Antiochus I sent wine and figs but politely replied that Greek philosophers are not for sale.
- Bindusara patronized Ajivikis.

#### Asoka

- According to the Buddhist tradition, Asoka usurped the throne after killing his 99 brothers and spared Tissa, the youngest one. Radhagupta a Minister of Bindusara helped him in fratricidal struggle.
- Under Asoka, the Mauryan Empire reached its climax. For the first time, the whole of the subcontinent, leaving out the extreme south, was under imperial control.
- Asoka fought the Kalinga war in 261 BC in the 9th years of his coronation. The king was moved by massacre in this war and therefore abandoned the policy of physical occupation in favour of policy of cultural conquest. In oilier words, Bherighosha was replaced by Dhammaghosha.
- Asoka was not an extreme pacifist. He did not pursue the policy of peace for sake of peace under all conditions. Thus he



retained Kalinga after its conquest and incorporated it into his empire.

• Asoka sent missionaries to the kingdoms of the Cholas and the Pandyas, and five States ruled by Greek kings. We also know that he sent missionaries to Ceylon and Suvarnabhumi (Burma) and also parts of South East Asia.

### Asoka's Dhamma

• Asoka's Dhamma cannot be regarded as sectarian faith. Its broad objective was to preserve the social order it ordained that people should obey their parents, pay respect to Brahmanas and Buddhist monks and show mercy to slave and servants.

• He held that if people behaved well they would attain Swarga (heaven). He never said that they would attain Nirvana, which was goal of Buddhist Teaching.

### The empire

• The empire was divided into a number of provinces. Probably, five.

• The northern province, called Uttarapatha had Taxila as its capital

• Western province, known as Avantipatha had its capital in Ujjain.

• Prachyapatha with its capital Toshali (Kalinga) formed the Eastern province while Dakshinapatha with its capital Surarnagiri was the Southernmost province.

• Central province. Magdha, with its capital at Pataliputra, was the headquarters of the entire kingdom. Arthashastra

**Arthashastra**, written by Chandragupta Maurya's Prime Minister Chanakya, primarily delves into the statecraft and administration. The treatise lays down various rules that should be formulated for a ruling monarch. It laid down strategies for a well-planned state economy. The Arthashastra has 15 adhikarnas or books. Of which, the first five deal with tantra or internal administration of the state, eight deal with avapa or its relations with neighboring states, and the last two are miscellaneous in character. The work is concerned with all the topics that deal with the internal administration and foreign relations.


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### Army

• The most striking feature of Mauryan administration was maintenance of a huge army. They also maintained a Navy.

• According to Megasthenes the administration of Army was carried by a board of 30 officers divided into six committees, each committee consisting of 5 members. They are:

(i) Army (ii) Cavalry (iii) Elephants (iv) Chariots (v) Navy (vi) Transport

• The state controlled almost all economic activities.

• Tax collected from peasants varied from 1/4 to 1/6 of the Produce.

• The state also provided irrigation facilities and charged water-tax.

• Tolls were also levied on commodities brought to town for sale and they were collected at gate.

• The slate enjoyed monopoly in mining, sale of liquor, manufacture of arms etc

### Facts about Mauryas

• During Mauryan period, the punch marked coins (mostly of silver) were the common units of transactions.

• Tamralipti in the Gangetic delta was the most prosperous port on the East Coast of India.

• Megasthenes in his Indica had mentioned 7 castes in Mauryan society. They were philosophers, farmers, soldiers, herdsmen, artisans, magistrates and councilors.

### The Mauryan Administration

#### The King

The Mauryan government was a centralised bureaucracy of which the nucleus was the king.

#### The Mantri Parishad

The king was assisted by Mantri Parishad, whose members included -

- (i) The Yuvaraj, the crown prince
- (ii) The Purohita, the chief priest
- (iii) The Senapati, the commander-in-chief of the army a few other ministers.

#### Art & Architecture

• The Mauryas introduced stone masonry on large scale.

• Fragments of stone pillars and slumps indicating the existence of an 80-pillared hall have been discovered at Kumarhar on outskirts of Patna.

• The pillars represent the Masterpiece of Mauryan sculpture. Each pillar is made of single piece of sandstone. Only their capitals which are beautiful pieces of sculpture in form of lion or bulls are joined with pillar on the top.

• Single Lion capital at Rampurva and Lauriya Nandangarh.

• Single bull capital at Rampurva.

• Four lion capital at Sarnath and Sanchi.

• A carved elephant at Dhauli and engraved elephant at Kalsi.

• The Mauryan artisans also started the practice of hewing out caves from rocks for monks to live in. The earliest example are Barabar caves in Gaya.

• Stupas were built throughout the empire to enshrine the relics of Buddha. Of these, the most famous are at Sanchi and Bui hut

#### The Decline

The Mauryan Empire lasted a little over a century and broke up fifty years after the death of Asoka. Slowly, the various princes of the empire began to break away and set up independent kingdoms. In 185 BC. the Mauryan king was overthrown by Pushyamitra Shunga, an ambitious Commander-in-Chief of armed forces. He started the Shunga dynasty in Magadha. The Mauryan Empire ushered in a dream that was to survive and echo again and again in centuries to come. Some probable causes of decline of the Mauryan Empire:

1. Brahmanical reaction
  2. Financial crisis
  3. Oppressive rule
  4. Neglect of north-west frontier.
  5. Weak successors
  6. Pacific policy of Asoka
  7. New knowledge in outlying areas-Dissemination of knowledge of manufacturing Iron
1. Where was the capital of Srigupta?  
Ans. Patliputra.
2. In Indian history who is known as 'Napoleon of India'?  
Ans. Samudragupta.
3. Which Gupta ruler was a great musician and an expert player on Veena? Ans. Samudragupta,

4. Who was Harisena,

Ans A court poet of Samudragupta.

5. In which language the inscriptions are engraved on Allahabad pillar? Ans. Sanskrit.

6. Which city was the most important city for trade during the reign of Samudragupta?

Ans. Ujjain.

7. Who established Nalanda University?

Ans. Kumargupta.

### Post Mauryan period

After the decline of Mauryas, the regional kingdoms were formed. Unlike Mauryas none of these regional kingdoms could extend their political authority over the large area equivalent to that of Mauryan Empire. Thus with the downfall of Mauryas their great empire witnessed rise of multiple regional kingdoms. The important regional kingdoms and their area of influence were as:

**(i) Sunga dynasty ruled from Videsha in Madhya Pradesh.**

**(ii) The Kanvas ruled from Patliputra.**

**(iii) The Indo-Greek rulers ruled over the north western part of the country.**

**(iv) The Satvahanas became the dominant power in Deccan and Central India with Pratisthana or Paithan as the capital**

**(v) The Chedi dynasty ruled over Kalinga**

### Sunga dynasty: (185–73 B.C.)

- Sunga Dynasty was established by Pushymitra Sunga, a Brahmin Commander-in-Chief of last Mauryan ruler named Brihadratha in 185 BC.
- The capital of Sungas was Videsa in modern Madhya Pradesh.
- Pushyamitra didn't adopt any royal title and ruled with the name of Senani
- He performed two horse sacrifices (Ashmedha) and one of these was performed by Patanjali, the great grammarian.
- During the reign of Sungas, there was a revival of Brahminical influence. The Bhagavata religion became important.
- The great Buddhist Stupa at Bharhut (in M.P.) was built during the reign of Sungas.
- The fine gateway railing which surrounds the Sanchi stupa, built by Ashoka, was constructed during the Sunga period.
- Pushyamitra was succeeded by his son Agnimitra, the hero of Kalidasa's drama 'Malvikagnimitra'.
- The Greek king Antialcidas 'I' sent his ambassador named Herodotus to the court of Sungas. Herodotus constructed a pillar "Garudadhvaja" in the honour of God Vasudeva
- After Agnimitra, a series of weak rulers such as Vasumitra, Vajramitra, Bhagabhadra, Devabhuti, followed, leading the decline of the dynasty.

### Kanva Dynasty: (73 to 28 B.C.)

- In 73 BC, Devabhuti, the last ruler of the Sunga dynasty, was murdered by his minister Vasudeva, who usurped the throne and founded the Kanva dynasty.
- The dynasty was confined to Magdha only
- The period of Kanva rule came to an end in 28 BC when their kingdom was annexed by Satvahanas.

### Satavahana Dynasty: (60 B.C. to 225 A.D.)

- The most important of the native successors of the Mauryas in the Deccan and Central India were the Satvahanas.
- Their capital was Pratisthana or Paithan while Bhrauch was the most important port city.
- The early Satvahana kings appeared not in Andhra but in Maharashtra but most of their early inscriptions have been found in Andhra.
- Simuka (60 BC – 37 BC) was the founder of the Satvahana dynasty. He was immediate successor of Ashoka in this region.

• The third ruler of the dynasty Satakarni I, raised the power and prestige of the dynasty by conquests. He performed Vedic sacrifices.

• Hala, its 17th ruler, was the author of 'Gathasaptasati' or, Sattasai in Prakrit. The text contains the love lures.

• The 23rd ruler of the dynasty was Gautamiputra Satakarni (106 – 130 A.D.) who revived the Satavahana power and defeated the Saka Ksatrap Nahapana. He was the greatest Satavahan ruler.

• The achievements of Gautamiputra Satakarni are recorded in the Nasik inscription by his mother, Gautami Balasri.

• Vasishthiputra Sri Satakarni, its 24th ruler, was married to the daughter of Saka Ksatrapa Rudradaman, but the former was defeated twice by the latter.

• Yajna Sri Satakarni, its 27th ruler, was the dynasty's last great ruler.

• Pulamavi III, its 30th ruler, was the last Satavahana ruler.

• Satavahanas were finally succeeded by the Vakataka dynasty in Maharashtra and Ishuvaku dynasty in Andhra Pradesh.

• Satavahanas started the practice of donating land with fiscal and administrative rights to Brahmanas and Buddhist monks, which eventually weakened their authority and resulted in the rise of feudalism in the later period.

• The famous Stupas built during the Satavahana period are located at Amravati and Nagarjunakonda.

• The official language of the Satavahanas was Prakrit.

• The Satavahanas issued their coins in lead (mainly), copper and bronze.

### Chedi Dynasty

- After Mauryas, the Chedi dynasty emerged in the Kalinga region, i.e. modern Odisha
- The capital city of this dynasty was Sisupalgarh
- The important ruler of this dynasty was Kharwela.
- Kharwela patronized Jainism and the Hatigumpha inscription gives a reference of his victories.

### The Indo-Greek kings

- Indo-Greeks (Bactrian Greeks) were the first foreign rulers of North-Western India in the Post-Maurya period.
- The most famous Indo-Greek ruler was Menander (165 BC – 145 BC), also known as Milinda.
- His capital was Sialkot
- He is mentioned in the famous Buddhist text Milind-Panaho.
- He was converted to Buddhism by Nagasena or Nagarjuna.
- The Indo-Greek kings introduced the regular coinage in India in large number
- The last Indo-Greek king was Hsatrius.

### The Sakas

- The Sakas, also known as Scythians, replaced the Indo-Greeks in India.
- Among the five branches of Sakas with their seats of power in different parts of India, the most important was the one which ruled in Western India till the 4th Century AD.

The five seats of power or Satraps were:

1. Kapisa (Afghanistan)
2. Taxila (Pakistan)
3. Mathura (Uttar Pradesh)
4. Upper Deccan
5. Ujjain

• The most famous Saka ruler in India was Rudradaman (130 AD – 150 AD). He is famous not only for his military conquests but also for his public works.

• He repaired the famous Sudarsan lake of the Mauryan period and gave patronage to Sanskrit language

• The Junagarh inscription in Gujarat is attributed to Rudradaman is first ever inscription written in Sanskrit

• Other important Saka rulers in India were Nahapana, Ushavadeva, Ghamatika, Chashtana etc.

• In about 58 BC a king of Ujjain, Vikramaditya – is supposed to have fought effectively against the Sakas. An era called Vikrama Samvat is reckoned from 58 B.C.



### The Parthians: (1st Century BC – 1st Century AD)

- Originally the Parthians (Pahlavas) lived in Iran
- They replaced the Sakas in North-Western India, but controlled an area much smaller than the Sakas.
- Famous Parthian king was Gondaphernes in whose reign St. Thomas is said to have come to India from Israel for the propagation of Christianity.
- Pahlavas restricted themselves to issuing copper coins and in rare instance silver money



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### The Kushans (1st to 3rd Century A.D.)

- The Kushans were one of the five Yeuchi clans of Central Asia.
- They replaced the Parthians in North-Western India and then expanded to the lower Indus basin and the upper and middle Gangetic basin.
- The Kushans controlled famous silk route starting from China, passing through their empire on to Iran & Western Asia. This route was a source of great income to the Kushans.
- The dynasty was founded by Kadphises I or Kujul Kadphises.
- The Kushans were the first rulers in India to issue gold coins on a wide scale.
- The second king was Kadphises II or Vema Kadphises was the first king who issued the gold coins.
- The most famous Kushan ruler was Kanishka (78 AD – 101 AD), also known as 'Second Ashoka'. He started an era in 78 AD which is now known as the Saka era and is used officially by the Government of India.
- The empire of Kanishka was spread over a large area in the portion of five countries i.e. Russia, Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan and India.
- His capital was Peshawar
- Kanishka was a great patron of Mahayana Buddhism. In his reign 4th Buddhist council was held in Kundalavana, Kashmir where the doctrines of the Mahayana form of Buddhism were finalized.
- Large size headless statue of Kanishka is found at Mathura
- The last great Kushan ruler was Vasudeva I.

#### NOTE:

- The three schools associated with sculpture were
- 1. Amaravati School (150 BC – 400 AD) – Satvahanas
- 2. Gandhar School (50 BC – 5th Century AD) – Saka- Kushans
- 3. Mathura School (150 AD – 300 AD) – Saka-Kushans.

### GUPTA PERIOD

SriGupta (240-280 AD) was ruling a small Hindu kingdom called Magadha from Vaishya community near Ganga river, a prayag based feudatory of Kushanas. He and his son 'Ghatotkach' (ruled probably from c. AD 280-319) was having hold over 'Patliputra' and nearby areas. Ghatotkacha (280 – 319 AD) became the successor of Sri Gupta.

#### Chandragupta I

- He was the first Gupta ruler to assume the title of Maharajadhiraja.
- He started the Guptan era i.e. 320 A.D.
- He strengthened his kingdom by matrimonial alliance with the powerful family of Lichchhavis who were the rulers of Mithila.
- His marriage to Lichchhvi princess Kumaradevi, brought an enormous power, resources and prestige. He took advantage of the situation and occupied the whole of fertile Gangetic Valley.
- After the marriage he issued the special type of coins called "Chandragupta I-kumaradevi type".

- Chandragupta I was able to establish his authority over Magadha, Prayaga & Saketa.

#### Samudragupta (335 – 380 A.D.)

- Samudragupta was the greatest king of Gupta dynasty.
- He took the title Lichchhvidhutra as his mother was Lichchhvi princess.
- The most detailed and authentic record of his reign is preserved in the Prayaga Prasasti/Allahabad pillar inscription, composed by his court poet Harisena.
- He is also described as a monarch with sharp intellect and polished poetry skills, for this he is described as Kaviraj.
- In the Gangetic Valley & Central India, Samudragupta annexed the territories of the defeated monarchs, but in South India he remained content with victories alone- he did not annex the territories of the conquered rulers.
- Samudragupta's military campaigns justify description of him as the 'Napoleon of India' by V.A. Smith.
- Titles: Kaviraja i.e. king of poets (Prayaga Prasasti), Param Bhagavat (Nalanda copper plate), Ashvamedha-parakrama i.e. whose might was demonstrated by the horse-sacrifice (coin), Vikram i.e. prowess (coin), Sarva-raj-ochcheta i.e. uprooter of all kings (coin) etc.
- Original types of Gold Coins (Dinars): Garud type, Dhanurdhari
- According to Chinese writer Wang-Hiuen-Tse, Meghavarna, king of Sri Lanka, sent an embassy to Samudragupta for his permission to build a monastery for Buddhist pilgrims at Bodh Gaya.

#### Chandragupta II 'Vikramaditya': (380-414 A.D.)

- According to 'Devi Chandragupta' (Vishakhadatta), Samudragupta was succeeded by Ramgupta.
- Ramgupta ruled for a very short period. He was 'the only Gupta ruler to issue copper coins'.
- Ramagupta, a coward and impotent king, agreed to surrender his queen Dhruvadevi to Saka invader. But the prince Chandragupta II, the younger brother of the king, resolved to go to the enemy's camp in the guise of the queen with a view to kill the hated enemy. Chandragupta II succeeded in killing the Saka ruler.
- Chandragupta II also succeeded in killing Ramagupta, and not only seized his kingdom but also married his widow Dhruvadevi.
- He issued the silver coins in the memory of victory over Sakas.
- He was the first Gupta ruler to issue silver coins and adopted the titles Sakari & Vikramaditya. Ujjain seems to have been made the second capital by Chandragupta II.
- Chinese pilgrim Fa-Hien visited India during his regime.
- Navaratna (i.e. nine gems) of Chandragupta II were there:

#### Kumargupta I: 415-455 AD

Chandragupta II was succeeded by his son Kumargupta I. Kumargupta took the titles like Mahindraditya, Mahendra Sinh and Ashvamedha Mahendrah Kumargupta was the worshipper of god Kartikeya. He founded the Nalanda Mahavihara which developed into a great centre of learning. Towards the end of his reign, the Gupta Empire was threatened from the North by the Huns, which was temporarily checked by his son Skandagupta.

#### Skandagupta : 455-467 AD

Skandagupta, the last great ruler of the Gupta dynasty. During his reign the Gupta Empire was invaded by the Huns. He succeeded in defeating the Huns. The continuous attacks of the Huns weakened the empire and adversely affected its economy. The gold coinage of Skandagupta bears testimony to this.

### Administration

In Gupta period the army was to be fed by the people whenever it passed through the countryside. This tax was called Senabhakta.

### Contributions of Gupta Rulers

- Kings were called Parameshwara / Maharajadhiraja / Paramabhattacharya.
- The most important officers were Kumaramatyas.
- They issued the largest number of gold coins in Ancient India, which were called Dinars. Silver coins were called rupyakas.
- Nalanda (a university) was established as a Buddhist monastery during the reign of Kumara Gupta.

### Gupta Religion :

- Bhagavad-Gita was written during this time only.
- Bhagavatism centered around worshipping Vishnu or Bhagvat.
- Vishnu temple at Deogarh (near Jhansi), a small temple near Sanchi and a brick temple at Bhitrangaon (near Kanpur) belong to the Gupta architecture.

### Gupta Art :

- Samudragupta is represented on his coins playing the lute (vina).
- Ajanta Paintings and paintings at Bagh, near Gwalior in MP, are of this time. They belong to the Buddhist art.

### Gupta Literature in India :

- Kalidas, the great Sanskrit dramatist, belonged to this period. His books are: Abhigyanashakuntalam, the Bhagavadgita, Ritusamhara, Meghadutam, Malavikagnimitram, Raghuvansha, Vikramurvashi etc. Out of these, Ritusamhara, Meghadutam, Raghuvansha were epics and the rest were plays.
- Vishakhadatta wrote Mudrarakshasa and Devichandraguptam.
- The Gupta period also saw the development of Sanskrit grammar based on Panini and Patanjali.
- Ramayana & Mahabharata were almost completed by the 4th century AD.

### Science and Technology of Gupta Period :

- Aryabhatta, the great mathematician wrote Aryabhatiya and Suryasiddhanta. In Aryabhatiya, he described the place value of the first nine nos. & the use of zero. He also calculated the value of pie and invented Algebra.
- In Suryasiddhanta, he proved that the earth revolves round the sun and rotates on its axis.
- Varahamihira wrote Panchasi-dhantika and Brihatsamhita. He said that the moon moves round the earth and the earth, together with the moon, move round the sun.
- Brahmagupta was a great mathematician. He wrote Brahmasphutic Siddhanta in which he hinted at the Law of Gravitation.
- Court language was Sanskrit.
- Dhanvantri – famous for Ayurveda knowledge.

### Post Guptan period

With the decline of Guptas various regional kingdom came up in place of large Guptan Empire. It was also the time when the epicenter of culture and civilization shifted to Deccan and the southern part of the country, where the powerful kingdoms like Chalukyas and Pallavas came into prominence.

### The Huns: (500-530 A.D.)

- Huns were primitive pastoralists owing herds of cattle & horses but knowing nothing of agriculture.
- They roamed in the Steppe in search of pasture & water. From the Oxus, the white Huns came into Afghanistan, destroyed the local power and after establishing themselves, began to pour into India in 458 AD.

- Skandagupta who was at the time ruling in Northern India, defeated them effectively.
- When the Gupta Empire's resistance collapsed then Huns occupied the areas up to Central India.
- There were two powerful Hun rulers Toramana & his son Mihirkula. They ruled during 500-530 AD.
- Mihirkula, a Shaivite, was a persecutor of Buddhism.
- In 530 AD, the Huns were uprooted by Yashodarmata of Mandsaur.

### Pushyabhuti or Vardhana dynasty

- Pushyabhuti were the feudatories of the Guptas, but they assumed independence after the Hun invasions. The Pushyabhuti or Vardhana dynasty was founded at Thaneswar
- The first important ruler of the dynasty was Prabhakaravardhana (580-605 AD).
- Prabhakaravardhana was succeeded by his eldest son Rajyavardhana (605-606 AD).
- Rajyavardhana had to face problems from the day of his succession to the throne. Grahavarman, the Maukhari ruler of Kannauj and husband of Rajyashri (sister of Rajyavardhana) was murdered by Deva Gupta (the ruler of Malva) who in alliance with Shashanka (ruler of Gaud or North-Western Bengal) now occupied Kannauj and imprisoned Rajyashri.
- Rajyavardhana, therefore, undertook a campaign against Deva Gupta and killed him but he was killed by Shashanka in 606 AD. In the meanwhile Rajyashri escaped into the forests of Central India.


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### Harshavardhana (606-647 A.D.)

- After the killing of Rajavardhana, his younger brother, Harshavardhana ascended throne in 606 A.D. and from this year started the Harsha Era.
- After ascending to the throne Harsha first rescued his widowed sister Rajyashri, from the Vindhyan forest, where she was going to throw herself into the fire.
- Harsha drove out Shashanka from Kannauj who had occupied it after killing of Rayavardhana. He not only unified Kannauj with Thaneswar but also made it his new capital, which made him the most powerful king of North India.
- Thereafter he proceeded towards the east against Shashanka with a view to avenge the death of his brother, Rajyavardhana and brother-in-law, Grahavarman.
- Harsha was not successful in his first expedition against Gaud, but in his second expedition towards the close of his reign, after the death of Shashanka (died in 637 AD), he conquered Magadha and Shashanka's empire.
- Harshavardhana defeated Dhruvasena II, the ruler of Vallabhi. Dhruvasena II accepted the position of a feudatory vassal. Harsha married his daughter to him. It was an important diplomatic achievement of Harsha.
- The course of Harsha's conquests suffered a serious setback on his expedition towards the Deccan. Pulakeshin II of Chalukya dynasty of Vatapi / Vadami inflicted a decisive defeat on him at

the bank of Narmada. The Chalukya records describe Harsha as the lord of whole of Northern country (Sakalottara- Patheshvara).

- The area under his control covered many parts of Northern India, Eastern Rajasthan and the Ganges Valley as far as Assam. But his empire included territories of distant feudal kings too.
- Harsha maintained diplomatic relation with China. In 641 AD, he sent an envoy to Tai-Tsung, the Tang Emperor of China. Three Chinese missions subsequently visited his court. Hiuen-Tsang, the celebrated Chinese pilgrim, visited India during Harsha's reign. He spent about eight years (635-643 AD) in the dominions of Harsha.
- Hiuen-Tsang mentions two most celebrated events of Harsha's reign the assemblies at Kannauj & at Prayaga. The Kannauj Assembly (643 AD) was held in honour of Hiuen-Tsang and to popularize Mahayana sect of Buddhism. The Prayaga assembly was held in 643-644 AD. In Prayaga, Harshavardhana used to celebrate religious festivals at the end of every five years, at the confluence of the Ganges, the Yamuna & the Saraswati. It is said that this was the beginning of Kumbha fair.
- Harshavardhana was a Shaiva by faith, but he showed equal respect to other sects. Hiuen-Tsang portrays him as a liberal Buddhist (Mahayana) who also honoured gods of others sects.
- According to Hiuen-Tsang, Nalanda University, meant for Buddhist monks, was maintained by the revenue from 200 villages which granted by Harshavardhana.
- He died in 647 AD; Harsha does not appear to have any heir to his throne, which was usurped after his death by his minister named Arunashva.
- He wrote three Sanskrit plays – Nagananda, Ratnavali & Priyandarsika. He gathered around him a circle of learned men, of whom Banabhatta, the author of Harshacharita (an important historical work narrating the incidents of the earlier part of Harsha's reign) and Kadambari (a poetical novel of great literary merit) and Bhartrihari, the author of Niti Shataka, Shringar Shataka & Vairagya Shatak (jointly called Shataktrayi) are the well known.

### QUESTIONS ON SIKHISM

1. Who is the founder Sikhism ? Ans.: Guru Nanak
2. Who invented the Gurmukhi script for punjabi language ? Ans.: Guru Angad
3. Which Sikh guru built the city of Amritsar ? Ans.: Guru Ramdas
4. Which Mughal emperor donated the land for Amritsar ? Ans.: Akbar
5. What is the Holy book of Sikhs ? Ans.: Adi granth or Guru Granth Sahib
6. Which Sikh guru compiled the holy book of Sikhs, Adi granth ? Ans.: Arjan Dev
7. Which Sikh guru built the Golden Temple at Amritsar ? Ans.: Arjan Dev
8. Which Sikh guru is killed by Jahangir ? Ans.: Arjan Dev
9. Which Sikh guru built Akal Takht, the throne of Almighty ? Ans.: Guru Har Gobind
10. Which Sikh guru is killed by Aurangzeb ? Ans.: Guru Teg Bahadur
11. Which Sikh guru founded khalsa in sikhism ? Ans.: Guru Gobind Singh
12. Who is the last human sikh guru of Sikhism ? Ans.: Guru Gobind Singh

### QUESTIONS ON BUDDHISM

1. What was the name of the father of Gautam Buddha? Ans. Shuddhodhana, who was the chief of the state Kapilvastu.
2. What was the name of Buddha's mother? Ans. Maya.
3. What was the childhood name of Gautam Buddha? Ans. Siddharth.
4. Who brought up Siddharth when his mother died in his childhood? Ans. His step mother, Gautami.

5. What was the name of Siddharth's wife? Ans. Yashodhra.
6. What was the name of his son? Ans. Rahul.
7. What is 'great renunciation' in Buddhism? Ans. Siddharth left his home at the age of twenty nine in search of truth; this event is known as "great renunciation".
8. Where did he attain enlightenment? Ans. He attained enlightenment (Nirvana) at Bodh Gaya near Gaya under a banyan tree on the bank of the river Niranjana.
9. What does the term 'Buddha' mean? Ans. Tathgat (one who possesses the truth).
10. Who are "monks or Bhikshus"? Ans. The followers of Buddha who are engaged in spreading his messages are called "monks or Bhikshus".
11. What is 'Sangh' in Buddhism? Ans. Gautam Buddha established the orders of monks called 'Sangh' to preach Buddhism.
12. When and where did Buddha die?  
Ans. 483 BC at the age of eighty at Kushinagar in Gorakhpur.
13. In which language did Buddha preach? Ans. Pali.
14. Where did Mahatma Buddha establish Sangha' ? Ans. At Sarnath.
15. What are the Triratnas' of Buddhism? Ans. Buddha, Sangha and Dhamma.
16. Who was the most favourite desciple of Gautam Buddha? Ans. Anand.
17. What is Chaityamandap? Ans. This is the prayer hall for Buddhists.
18. Who is known as Light of Asia ? Ans.: Gautama Buddha
19. When did Gautama Buddha born ? Ans.: BC 563
20. Where did Gautama Buddha born ? Ans.: Lumbini in Kapilavasthu
21. Gautama Buddha attained full enlightenment at \_\_\_\_\_ ?  
Ans.: Bodh Gaya (named by Edwin Arnold)
22. Where did the 1st Buddhist Council held ? Ans.: Rajgirh
23. What is the name of worship place of Buddhists ? Ans.: Pagoda
24. What is the Holy book of Buddhists ? Ans.: Tripitika
25. Which river flows through Bodh Gaya ? Ans.: Niranjana River (Phalgu River)

### QUESTIONS ON GUPTA PERIOD

1. Where was the capital of Srigupta? Ans. Patliputra.
2. To whom Chandragupta I was married? Ans. He married a princess Kurnaridevi of Lichhavi republic of Vaishali.
3. Which city Chandragupta I got in dowry by marryin, Lichhavi princess? Ans. Patliputra.
4. Who started the Gupta era? Ans. Chandragupta 1 in 320 AD.
5. Mcghavarman, the king of Cylone sent an ambassador which Gupta ruler and sought permission to build Buddhist Monastery at Bodh Gaya? Ans. Samudragupta.
6. In Indian history who is known as 'Napoleon of India? Ans. Samudragupta.
7. Which Gupta ruler was a great musician and an exper player on Veena? Ans. Samudragupta,
8. Who authored the inscriptions engraved on the pillar at Allahabad? Ans. Harisena.
9. Who was Harisena, Ans A court poet of Samudragupta.
10. In which language the inscriptions are engraved on Allahabad pillar? Ans. Sanskrit.
11. Who was the most famous ruler of Gupta dynasty? Ans. Chandragupta Vikramaditya.
12. Which Gupta ruler is known as Sakari and why? Ans. Chandragupta Vikramaditya, because he conquered the Saka.
13. Which city was the most important city for trade during the reign of Samudragupta? Ans. Ujjain.
14. Which was the second capital of Chandragupta Vikramaditya? Ans. Ujjain
15. A Chinese pilgrim, 'Fahyan' visited India during the reign of which Gupta ruler? Ans. Chandragupta Vikramaditya.





16. Who was the galaxy of scholars in the court of Chandragupta Vikramaditya? Ans. Aryabhatta, Kalidasa, Varahmihira, Dhanvantri, Amar Singh and Brahmagupta.
17. Who was Kalidasa? Ans. Kalidasa was a great poet of Sanskrit.
18. Which are the important books written by Kalidasa? Ans. Meghdoot, Raghuvansham, Kumarasambhavam.
19. Who was Varahamihira? Ans. He was as a great astrologer.
20. Who wrote the famous book 'Vrihat Sanhita'? Ans. Varahamihira, it deals with astrology and physical geography.
21. Who was Dhanavantri? Ans. He was a great Physician in the court of Chandragupta Vikramaditya.
22. Who was Aryabhatta? Ans. He was a great Mathematician and Astrologer in the court of Chandragupta Vikramaditya. He invented the Decimal system.
23. Who wrote the famous book 'Aryabhatta'? Ans. Aryabhatta.
24. Who wrote the famous book 'Surya Siddhanta'? Ans. Aryabhatta.
25. What was the main contribution of Aryabhatta in this field of science? Ans. He was the first astrologer who explained that the earth rotates on its own axis but revolves round the sun.
26. Who established Nalanda University? Ans. Kumargupta.
27. To which period cave paintings of Ajanta belonged? Ans. Gupta period.
28. Where was the centre of higher education during Gupta period? Ans. Nalanda University.
29. When did the art of making temples started? Ans. During Gupta period.
30. During which period the iron pillar at Mehrauli built? Ans. Gupta period.
31. Which ruler of the Gupta period is associated with pillar at Mehrauli? Ans. Chandragupta Vikramaditya.
32. During which period the great epics the Ramayan and the Mahabharat were given the final form? Ans. During Gupta period.
33. During which period the famous Sanskrit book "Panchtantra" a collection of tales had been written? Ans. Gupta period.
34. Which period is known as 'golden age of Indian history'? Ans. Gupta period.
35. Which were the famous trade centers during Gupta period? Ans. Ujjain, Patliputra, Banaras and Mathura.
36. Which was the famous sea-port on the east coast of India during Gupta period? Ans. Tamralipti.
37. Which was the famous sea-port on the west coast of India during Gupta Period? Ans. Broach.
38. What was the official language during Gupta period? Ans. Sanskrit

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